WILDC.A.T.S™

COVERT-ACTION TEAMS

DC

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JUNE

WHILCE '94

WILDC.A.T.S™

COVERT-ACTION-TEAMS

CREATED BY JIM LEE & BRANDON CHOI

HUNTSMAN™ CREATED BY CHRIS CLAREMONT

GATEWAY PART II

STORY
CHRIS CLAREMONT

PENCILS
JIM LEE

INKS
SCOTT WILLIAMS

LETTERS
TOM ORZECHOWSKI

INTERLUDE: MR. MAJESTIC

STORY
H.K PROGER

PENCILS
RYAN BENJAMIN

INKS
TOM McWEENEY

LETTERS
RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT

COLORS
JOE CHIODO

COMPUTER COLORS
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I AM *PROVIDENCE.*

I HAVE DANCED THE PATHWAYS OF YOUR FUTURE, *LORD EMP...*

...AND SEALED THEM *ALL*, SAVE THE ONE THAT LEADS TO THIS PLACE AND TO US...

...AND TO YOUR *DOOM.*

RESIST US AT YOUR *PERIL.*

YOU HEARD THE LADY, *HEROES.*

WE CAN DO THIS EASY, WE CAN DO THIS HARD.

EITHER WAY, YOU *WILDC.A.T.S.* ARE HISTORY.

MY *FUTURE* IS MY OWN, ASSASSIN.

I--AND MY TEAM--BOW TO NO *FALSE PROVIDENCE!*

PERFECT, MEAT!

YOUR FATE IS *SEALED!*

PRIS--WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?!*

HK-!

MARLOWE'S DOWN!

VOODOO'S LED US INTO A *TRAP!*

DEFENSIVE MANEUVER DELTA--EVERYONE FORM ON *VOID* FOR AN IMMEDIATE *DUST-OFF!*

ADRIANNA--*'PORT* US THE HELL OUT OF HERE, *NOW!*

I'LL RUN *INTERFER-ENCE!*

AIN'T *WE* THE NOBLE AN' *SELF-SACRIFICING* ANDROID.

KGH!

ZORCH!

WATCH YOUR AIM, *ATTICA!*

YOU NEARLY *FRIED ME* AS WELL AS *WARBLADE!*

BUT I GUESS IT'S *EASY* TO PLAY THE HERO, *SPARTAN...*

...SO LONG AS YOU GOT YOURSELF A RESERVE BODY TO *DOWNLOAD* YOUR BRAIN BOX INTO.

REAL SHAME YOUR FRIENDS DON'T HAVE THE SAME *ADVANTAGE.*

YOU WANNA BE IN THE BIG LEAGUES, CHUCKLE-CHEEKS...

...YOU BETTER GET USED TO THINKIN' FAST AN' ACTIN' *FASTER!*

SPARTAN-- SOMETHING IS *WRONG!*

SOME FORCE PREVENTS ME FROM *TELE-PORTING!*

HE CAN'T HEAR YOU.

I'VE MANIPULATED THE QUANTUM FIELD ABOUT YOU SO THAT YOU'RE MOVING AND THINKING IN *MOLASSES...*

...TOO SLOW, TOO STUPID TO *SAVE* YOURSELF.

SURPRISED? YOU SHOULDN'T BE.

WE'RE BOTH *"CHILDREN"* OF THE *ORB*, VOID, ALIKE ENOUGH TO BE *TWINS*.

WE SHARE THE SAME GENESIS, WE SHARE THE SAME *POWERS*.

OUR *ONLY* DIFFERENCE IS IN THE WAY AND *WILL* WE CHOOSE TO USE THEM.

WHICH MEANS THAT *ANYTHING* YOU CAN DO--

--*I* CAN DO *BETTER!*

COOL BIKE.

WAY COOL DRIVER.

EVEN IF SHE'S **SICK** AS DEATH.

RAKSHA POISON. SEPTIC AS SIN. ANY-ONE ELSE, THEY'D BE DUST AND DONE.

ZEALOT--WORSE SHE FEELS, **TOUGHER** SHE ACTS.

I'D ADMIRE THE ATTITUDE...

...IF I WEREN'T RIDING **SIDECAR**.

SHE CALLS THIS PLACE "**BROOKLYN**."

BIG PART OF A **BIGGER** CITY.

NOT MUCH ACTION THIS TIME OF NIGHT. STREET'S PRETTY DESERTED. GOOD THING, I FIGURE.

'CAUSE ZEALOT ISN'T GIVING ANYBODY MUCH TIME TO GET OUT OF OUR WAY.

IS IT **WISE** TO GO SO FAST?

IT IS **NECESSARY**.

THE **COMLINK** CODES HAVE BEEN SCRAMBLED, THE TEAM HAS GONE TOTALLY **OFF-LINE**.

I HAVE THEIR CURRENT POSITION, NOTHING MORE.

VOODOO'S DOING.

IF, AS YOU SAY, SHE IS **POSSESSED**...

...SHE HAS THE KNOWLEDGE.

HUNTSMAN, WE ARE RACING INTO CERTAIN **BATTLE**. YOU CANNOT BRING THE **CHILD**--!

LEAVE **MIRANDA**, Z., YOU LEAVE **ME**.

SHE AND I, WE STAY **TOGETHER**.

MY GUY. ALL THE WAY.

THREE OF US DOWN IN A HANDFUL OF SECONDS.

THE *TROIKA'S* IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE WE LAST FOUGHT.

SSSILLY ANDROID--

--DID YOU THINK WE DO NOT LEARN FROM OUR DEFEATSSS?

SLAG'S RIGHT.

HE'S THICKENED HIS *LAVA SHELL* SO THAT MY *BIO-BLASTS* HAVE LIMITED IMPACT.

THE HITS I'VE TAKEN SO FAR HAVEN'T DONE SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE. OPERATING AND COMBAT EFFICIENCY STILL IN THE MID-NINETY PERCENTILE.

AND SCANALYSIS SUGGESTS HIS THERMAL CAPABILITY IS WELL BELOW MY OWN DERMAL THRESHOLD.

SINCE I CAN'T SEEM TO HURT HIM AT A DISTANCE, THE BEST MOVE TO MAKE--

--IS TO TAKE OUR FIGHT *UP CLOSE* AND *PERSONAL!*

BRAVO, SSSPARTAN!

NO LONGER DO YOU IMITATE THE JACKRABBIT.

BUT INSSSTEAD YOU CHOOSZSE THE BULL--

--RUSSSHING HEADLONG TO ITSSS SSSLAUGHTER!

HE *SUCKERED* ME!

TOO *HOT*-- CAN'T COMPENSATE-- INTERNAL SYSTEMS OVERLOAD--

--ARRGH!

SPARTAN!

HANG TIGHT, BUDDY, I'M ON THE WAY!

H.A.R.M.-- INSTATE TARGETTING GESTALT!

JOINT **CYBER-SYSTEMS** IN OPS-SYNC, I HAVE CONTROL OF THE WEAPONS ARRAY.

TARGET **MAUL** ACQUIRED AND LOCKED INTO THE MATRIX.

HAVE TO STRIKE FAST, BEFORE HE BEGINS GROWING. BIGGER THAT LUMP GETS, THE HARDER TO NAIL.

LOAD STAGGERED SALVO.

HIGH-INTENSITY PENETRATORS WITH **NEURO-SHOCK** PAYLOADS.

WON'T DO ANY LASTING DAMAGE, BUT IT SHOULD MAKE HIM FEEL LIKE HIS WHOLE NERVOUS SYSTEM'S BEING ***FRIED.***

KIND'A LIKE HOW I FELT BEING HARD-WIRED INTO MY ARMOR.

ONLY FOR HIM, THE PAIN'LL ***GO AWAY.***

SEQUENTIAL VOLLEY, H.A.R.M., ON MY MARK--

--FIRE!

THE BIG MAN IS DOWN!

THE BIG MAN IS OUT!

SCANNING FOR SECONDARY TARGETS.

HOSTILE ELEMENT WITHIN ACTIVE COMBAT RADIUS.

SUBJECT ARMED.

INITIATING **TERMINAL** THREAT RESPONSE.

H.A.R.M.-- CANCEL RESPONSE!

ATTICA! CALL OFF YOUR DAMN **ROBOT!** ABOVE ALL THE OTHERS, THIS ONE IS TO BE TAKEN **ALIVE!**

A HARD ORDER TO OBEY, eh, RAKSHA?

TRULY SPOKEN, MEAT.

TOO MANY OF THE **BRETHREN** HAVE GONE TO GLORY, THANKS TO YOU.

BUT YOU WILL FOLLOW, **ALABASTAR WU**--

--OF THAT, YOU HAVE MY MOST SOLEMN **VOW**--

--TO SERVE THEM AS A **SLAVE**, UNTIL THE END OF TIME!

THE ARRANGEMENT, RAKSHA...

...GUARANTEES YOU HIS SERVICES IN THE ***NEXT*** LIFE.

KLIK KLAK KLIK KLAK KLIK KLAK KLIK KLAK KLIK KLAK

WE HAVE NEED OF HIM IN THIS ONE.

SO IT HAS BEEN WRITTEN, LORD SOMA.

SO IT SHALL BE DONE.

POOR THINGS. I HOPE THEY HAVEN'T BEEN TOO BADLY DAMAGED.

DOES IT MATTER, *TAPESTRY*?

I SUPPOSE NOT.

HEEL, PUPPIES! BEHAVE YOURSELVES, YOU CAN ***PLAY*** LATER.

YOU DID WELL, ATTICA.

A LOT OF SKILL, A LITTLE LUCK, THE ADVANTAGE OF A *TURNCOAT* ON THE INSIDE.

WE'RE SHORT *TWO*, THOUGH.

THE MOST *DANGEROUS* OF THE BUNCH, IF Y'ASK ME.

GRIFTER AND HIS BABE, *ZEALOT*.

SAY THAT TO HER FACE, ATTICA, AND YOU MIGHT WELL LOSE YOUR OWN.

ZEALOT IS *NO ONE'S* "BABE."

WHAT-EVER.

YOUR PAYMENT, MERCENARY.

ACCESS CODES TO THE APPROPRIATE BANK CACHE IN ZURICH.

DO NOT SPEND IT ALL AT ONCE.

HELLO, JACOB.

I'VE WAITED SO *LONG* TO MEET YOU.

I JUST KNOW WE'RE GOING TO BE THE *GREATEST* OF FRIENDS.

WHAT A *WASTE*-- A LOOKER LIKE HER MOONIN' OVER THAT *TOADSTOOL*.

THAT DON'T BOTHER YOU, SOMA?

I GUESS NOT.

OUR BUSINESS WITH THE *TROIKA* IS CONCLUDED, ATTICA.

YOU MAY GO.

YOU'RE THE *CLIENT,* SOMA, YOU CALL THE SHOTS.

BUT I GOTTA TELL YA...

...YOU'RE MAKIN' A MAJOR *MISTAKE* IGNORIN' GRIFTER AND ZEALOT

HE SEEMS EAGER FOR THE *HUNT.*

THE THRILL OF *VICTORY.* AS INTOXICATING AS ANY DRUG. AND AS *DANGEROUS.*

INDULGE HIM.

PERHAPS IT IS WISE TO ERR ON THE SIDE OF *CAUTION.*

THAT'S M'*MAN!*

YOU MAY DEAL WITH *GRIFTER* AS YOU PLEASE.

BUT *SISTER ZEALOT* IS TO BE DELIVERED *UNHARMED.*

I *HUNGER.*

FEED OFF YOUR *HOST,* RAKSHA.

SHE RESISTS.

AS I CONSUME HER FLESH, I STRENGTHEN HER WILL.

IF THIS SHELL EXPIRES, I WILL REQUIRE ANOTHER.

VOODOO'S ABILITIES ARE USEFUL.

IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO LOSE HER.

I REQUIRE ALABASTER WU *HEALTHY,* RAKSHA.

LIKEWISE, LORD EMP AND HIS *PETS.*

BE PATIENT. WE'LL FIND YOU *DINNER* SOON ENOUGH.

IF THAT'S YOUR TEAM, Z...

...THIS ISN'T THEIR NIGHT.

VOODOO *IS* POSSESSED...

...THAT MUCH IS CERTAIN.

NO OVERT DEFENSIVE SYSTEMRY ABOUT THE WARE-HOUSE.

AND THE *TROIKA* APPEAR TO BE THE ONLY COMBAT PERSONNEL.

THIS IS ALMOST TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.

WHAT NOW?

THE PAIR IN *CLOAKS*...

...SEEM TO BE CALLING ALL THE SHOTS.

THEY ANYONE YOU *KNOW?!*

BLESSED *HECATE!*

SHE LOOKED RIGHT UP MY LENS.

I THINK WE'VE BEEN "*MADE.*"

WE MUST *GO!*

ZEALOT-- WHO *IS* SHE?

NO QUESTIONS, HUNTSMAN, *NO TIME!*

WE MUST GO!

NOW!

WE BARELY REACH THE BIKE BEFORE SHE'S ROLLING.

LIKE A BULLET BEFORE, LIKE A **ROCKET** NOW.

TAKES ALL OUR HANDS TO HOLD AND ZEALOT DOESN'T MUCH CARE IF WE FALL.

SHE'S **SPOOKED**...

...AND SHE ISN'T TRYING TO **HIDE** IT.

SHE CLUTCHES HER **CELLULAR** LIKE IT'S THE LIFELINE TO HER SOUL.

SAVANT

SHAKING SO HARD SHE CAN BARELY PUNCH THE NUMBERS.

THE MOOD'S INFECTIOUS.

I MEAN, ZEALOT TORE INTO A SHIPLOAD OF **RAKSHAS** WITHOUT BATTING AN EYE. SHE'S AS STRONG AND HONED AS HER **BLADES**. FACE HER WITH THE **DEVIL**, SHE'D SPIT IN HIS EYE.

YET ONE LOOK AT THAT WOMAN AND SHE'S ON THE **RUN**.

WHO THE HECK **IS** SHE?!?

LORD SOMA!

YOUR PLACE IS WITH YOUR COMPANIONS, *PROVIDENCE*.

OUR BUSINESS IS CONCLUDED.

THAT WAS AN ALLIANCE OF *CONVENIENCE*, SOMA. I AM *DONE* WITH THEM.

WHATEVER YOUR PLANS FOR THE REST, LEAVE *VOID* TO ME.

SHE IS *INTEGRAL* TO THE SET. IT CANNOT BE BROKEN.

I WILL MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE.

BUT BE WARNED. LIKE VOID, I SERVE A *POWER* GREATER THAN MYSELF. I WILL NOT BE *DENIED*.

CHILD, YOU ARE A *FOOL*!

AIEE!

WIELDING A *MYSTERY* OVER WHICH YOU HAVE AS LITTLE COMPREHENSION AS CONTROL!

YOU ARE BUT A *FRAGMENT*...

...OF A *TRANSCENDENCE* THAT TOUCHES THE BOUNDARIES OF *INFINITY!*

YOU HAVE NOT EVEN PASSED THE SPAN OF A *SINGLE* HUMAN LIFETIME.

YOU KNOW *NOTHING*.

I AM THE *WEAVER* OF SOULS...

...THE SHAPER OF *FATE!*

I AM *TAPESTRY!*

I HAVE SPUN THEM TO THE BORDER OF THE *DREAMLANDS*, DOMINA.

ALL ARE IN THEIR MOST *RECEPTIVE* STATE.

BEAR WITNESS, LITTLE *SEER*.

TO THE EXERCISE OF *TRUE* POWER.

AS THE BOUNDRIES BETWEEN FLESH *DISSOLVE*...

... SO, TOO, WILL SOUL AND SELF *MERGE*...

...UNTIL *NOTHING* REMAINS OF THE *WOMEN* THAT WERE.

SAVE *POWER*.

THAT *I* WILL WIELD.

LIKE DOUBLE-HEADED *JANUS*, VOID AND PROVIDENCE WILL LIGHT MY PATH THROUGH *ETERNITY*, AND PROTECT ME FROM MY EVERY *ENEMY*.

AS FOR *YOU*...

...LITTLE LORD *EMP*...

...CHAMPION OF THE *KHERUBIM*...

YOU *WEEP*, JACOB.

IS IT SO *AWFUL* A THING...

...TO HAVE YOUR *ESSENCE* TORN FROM YOUR BODY?

DON'T WORRY, I'LL PUT IT BACK.

ONLY NOT QUITE THE WAY I *FOUND* IT.

SUCH A LONG AND EVENTFUL LIFE--

--SUCH *VIVID* IMAGERY--

--HOW *SAD* SO MUCH SEEMS *LOST* TO YOU.

WHO *STRIPPED* YOU OF YOUR *MEMORY*, MARLOWE. AND *WHY?* HAVE YOU EVER *WONDERED?*

SHALL I HELP YOU *REMEMBER?*

PERHAPS ANOTHER TIME.

LET'S BEGIN WITH SOMETHING *CLOSER* TO HOME.

THE *DEBUT* OF YOUR PRECIOUS *WILDC.A.T.S.*

GIVE US THE DANCER, OR THE RUNT'S A HEAD SHORTER!

SOMEBODY TAKE OUT THIS DIRTBAG! NOW!

I CAN MAKE THE SHOT!

THUNK!

GREETINGS, BROTHER GRIFTER.

ONCE AGAIN, I MUST BE THE ONE TO FINISH YOUR FIGHT.

FROM THAT MEETING, FAST FRIEND-SHIPS.

AND THE FORGING OF A *BOND* THAT NOTHING CAN BREAK.

OR SO IT SEEMS.

AS LONG AS THE SUN SHINES AND THE WIND BLOWS, THERE'LL ALWAYS BE TOMORROW.

AND IT'LL BE UP TO PEOPLE LIKE US TO MAKE SURE IT'S ALWAYS A BETTER ONE THAN THE ONE BEFORE.

THERE'S AN ELEMENT MISSING, YOU KNOW.

INDICATIONS ARE THIS WAS A *TRIPTYCH*, BUT THERE'S NO RECORD OF THE OTHER TWO FIGURES.

SO THE PROVENANCE SAYS.

I KNOW. I COMPILED IT. I DESIGNED THIS WHOLE EXHIBIT. I'VE MADE *ANTEOCLES OF THRYGIA* MY LIFE'S WORK.

HE WAS A FASCINATING MAN-- SOLDIER AND STATESMAN, A STRATEGIST SOME SAY TO RIVAL HIS BEST FRIEND, *ALEXANDER THE GREAT.*

FASCINATING, ISN'T IT? HOW FATE CASTS ONE AS A BENCHMARK CHAPTER IN HUMAN HISTORY AND RELEGATES THE OTHERS TO BARELY A FOOTNOTE.

I'M *CHARLES RUSSELL.*

CORDELIA MATHESON.

YEAH, I KNOW THAT TOO.

THIS ENTIRE WING OF THE *SMITHSONIAN* IS YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S BEQUEST.

SHE WAS QUITE A LADY, SO THEY SAY. SHE ACTUALLY WORKED WITH HARRY LUCAS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO?

THEY WERE A PAIR, ALL RIGHT-- THE *"BONNIE & CLYDE"* OF MID-CENTURY ARCHAEOLOGY.

I WISH I'D KNOWN HER.

LOOK... IF YOU AREN'T TERRIBLY BUSY...

...CAN I INTEREST YOU IN A CUP OF COFFEE?

THAT'D BE NICE.

I'VE ADMIRED YOUR WORK FOR QUITE SOME TIME.

I'M GLAD AT LAST WE HAVE THE CHANCE TO MEET.

Oh.

WOW.

YOU'RE BEEPING.

DAMN!

CALL

BIP BIP BIP BIP BIP BIP

THIS IS A SURPRISE.
THAT NEWS IS *NOT* A SURPRISE.
JUST HANG ON, OKAY? I'LL BE ALONG AS QUICKLY AS I CAN.
APOLOGIES, PROFESSOR. FAMILY EMERGENCY. GOTTA RUN.
RAIN CHECK ON THE INVITE, CALL YOU WHEN I'M BACK, OKAY?
OKAY.
ANYTIME.
WOW!
NICE GUY.
WAY TOO MUCH LIKE *HARRY* FOR MY OWN GOOD.
AND PROBABLY FOR *HIS*.
BUT THIS *OTHER* THING--!
SOONER OR LATER, YOU WERE BOUND TO MEET AGAIN.
I TOLD YOU, ZEALOT, I *TOLD* YOU--
--IT'S A *SMALL* WORLD.
BUT DID *YOU* LISTEN?
THE *MAJESTRIX* OF THE *CODA*?!
HA!

GOD FORBID THE GREAT AND POWERFUL *ZEALOT* SHOULD EVER BE SO *SENSIBLE*.

SOLDIER-- IT'S *SAVANT!*

HOW'S BY YOU, BABY SISTER?

I JUST GOT A *MAYDAY* FROM ZEALOT.

WHOA!

STOP THE PRESSES, HOLD THE PHONE, BE STILL MY OLD HEART! WHO WOULD'A THOUGHT THIS DAY WOULD EVER COME!

I'M ON A CLOCK HERE, SOLDIER. YOU GONNA BUST MY CHOPS OR MAKE YOURSELF *USEFUL*...

...BECAUSE IF IT'S PAYBACK FOR OLD WOUNDS YOU'RE AFTER, YOU'LL BE TAKING IT OUT OF MY HIDE OVER ZEALOT'S DEAD BODY.

IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?

TELL ME WHERE AND WHAT'S NEEDED, KID, I'M ON MY WAY.

BROOKLYN WATERFRONT, NEAR THE NAVY YARD.

THE *TROIKA'S* ON HER TAIL, SO YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE FINDING HER.

YOU AIN'T COMIN'?

"I NEED *MAJESTIC.*"

"YOU NEEDJER HEAD EXAMINED, BABY SISTER.

"HE AIN'T WORTH THE *EFFORT.*"

"ZEALOT'S FACING *TAPESTRY,* SOLDIER.

"IF WE CAN'T *SAVE* ZEALOT--

"--IF *WORST* COMES TO WORST--

"--HE'S THE ONLY ONE OF US WITH STRENGTH ENOUGH TO *KILL* HER."

WELCOME TO CHICAGO

Fairbanks

NOW, MY CAGED AND COMATOSE WILDC.A.T.S...

...AS I HAVE WOVEN THE PATTERN OF YOUR LIVES...

...SO CAN I ALTER IT!

THIP THIP THIP THIP THIP

SOME-BODY TAKE OUT THIS DIRTBAG! NOW!

NO! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!

LADY, I CAN MAKE THE SH

THUNK!

GRIFTER!

HE THOUGHT HIMSELF THE EQUAL OF THE CODA SISTERHOOD.

HE HAS PAID THE PRICE.

NOW, LORD EMP, IT IS YOUR TURN!

WITH YOU DIES THE LAST HOPE OF THE KHERUBIM.

THIS DAY, AND THIS WORLD, BELONG TO DAEMON!

NEVER!

K-CHING!

I FACE YOU WITH YOUR SWORD, ZEALOT...

...AND THE SKILLS YOU TAUGHT ME!

NOW, AT LONG LAST, THE TIME HAS COME TO LEARN WHICH ONE OF US...

...IS SUPREME!

YOU-- SAVED ME!

YES. BUT ONLY FROM HER.

YOU MEAN-- THERE ARE OTHERS?!

WHAT CAN I DO?! HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF?!

PLACE YOURSELF IN MY HANDS, JACOB, AND ALL WILL BE WELL.

I OFFER ARMOR AGAINST ALL ATTACKS, AND STRENGTH ENOUGH TO CRUSH YOUR EVERY FOE.

ALL YOU NEED DO, MY SWEETLING, IS GIVE YOURSELF TO ME, WHOLLY AND UNRESERVEDLY...

ooo BODY AND SOUL!

NEXT A GATHERING OF EAGLES!

INTERLUDE: SOMEWHERE ABOVE THE ARCTIC CIRCLE...

TUMP TUMP TUMP TUMP

TUMP

WSSSSH

WSSSSH

WSSSSH

SSHMP

HELLO, LORD MAJESTIC. NICE PLACE YOLIVE GOT HERE.

A LITTLE *REMOTE*, BUT NICE. ENERGY BARRIER'S A GREAT TOUCH -- REALLY KEEPS THE *CHILL* OUT.

HOW DID YOU *FIND* ME, SAVANT? MY LOCATION WAS MEANT TO BE A *SECRET*.

OH, YOU KNOW *ME* --

-- I'VE GOT A WHOLE *BAG* FULL OF TRICKS.

YOU *DO* UNDERSTAND THAT I AM HERE BECAUSE I DO NOT WISH TO BE DISTURBED.

THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THE LACK OF A PHONE.

THIS LITTLE *GYROSCOPE'S* COME IN HANDY A BUNCH OF TIMES.

NOW COME DOWN HERE. WE NEED TO TALK.

LOOK, MAJESTIC, LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE. ZEALOT NEEDS YOUR *HELP*. YOU'VE GOT TO COME BACK WITH ME.

VERY WELL.

OUT OF THE QUESTION. THERE ARE CERTAIN... ISSUES I MUST RESOLVE. MATTERS THAT MUST BE DEALT WITH. THINGS I'M STILL WORKING OUT.

I'M NOT YET READY TO RETURN TO CIVILIZATION.

I'M NOT SURE I'LL EVER BE.

YOU MIGHT BE THE MOST POWERFUL BEING ON THE FACE OF THIS PLANET, MAJESTIC. YOU CAN'T HIDE UP HERE FOREVER.

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND, SAVANT? I WILL NOT -- I CANNOT -- GO BACK.

LEAVE ME. NOW.

DO THINK THE WORLD'S GOING TO STOP JUST BECAUSE YOU WANT IT TO, "MISTER MAJESTIC?"

I KNOW ALL ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED -- WHAT YOU DID. DEAL WITH IT AND MOVE ON.

YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY ...

OF COURSE I COULD. RECOGNIZE THIS?

H... HOW?!

HOW DID I *FIND* IT? ACQUIRING *KNOWLEDGE, THINGS* -- THAT'S WHAT I DO.

YES...OF COURSE.

YOU KNOW, AT THE *TIME*, I THOUGHT WHAT I WAS DOING WAS *RIGHT*. I DIDN'T KNOW...*COULDN'T* HAVE KNOWN... WHAT WOULD *HAPPEN*.

YOU'VE *GOT* TO BELIEVE ME, SAVANT -- IF I'D HAD *ANY IDEA* HOW THINGS WOULD TURN OUT, I *NEVER* WOULD HAVE...

IT DOESN'T *MATTER*, MAJESTIC. YOU MADE A MISTAKE -- A *BIG* ONE -- BUT IT *HAPPENS*. LIVE WITH IT.

FEEL GUILTY *LATER*, ON YOUR OWN TIME, IF YOU *MUST*. BUT RIGHT *NOW*, ZEALOT NEEDS YOU IN NEW YORK.

VERY WELL. I SUPPOSE I *HAVE* HIDDEN HERE TOO LONG, ROOTED BY *GUILT*, MIRED IN A PAST I *CAN'T CHANGE*.

MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR ME TO *FACE* THE FUTURE, TO TRY TO MAKE *AMENDS*.

IF ZEALOT NEEDS ME, SHE WILL *HAVE* THE AID OF...

SSZZZZ

MISTER MAJESTIC!

SIZZZAAK

Y'KNOW, WE SHOULD *REALLY* HAVE A TALK ABOUT THAT NAME...

LET US GO, SAVANT. I AM EAGER TO ONCE AGAIN BRING *JUSTICE* TO THE WORLD.

GOOD. THEN I GUESS I WON'T BE NEEDING *THIS* ANYMORE.

NO. IT HAS SERVED ITS PURPOSE...

"...FOR WHAT IT REPRESENTS IS BURNED INTO MY SOUL.

"I HAVE MADE BAD CHOICES, I HAVE DONE GRAVE WRONGS, I AM GUILTY OF THINGS THAT PLAGUE MY DREAMS.

"BUT THAT CANNOT CHANGE MY RESPONSIBILITIES. I HAVE A DUTY TO THIS PLANET.

"AND I CANNOT LET DOUBT BURY ME AGAIN."

end interlude.

ZONE